

**MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #66, Wednesday, April 5, 2017, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249
Queens Quay West
Chaired by Ed Hore**

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. – Ed Hore, Liz Bernhard, J. Ariganello
10 Queens Quay West – Paul Allen
1 York Quay –
33 Harbour Square – Marlies Burkhard
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Daphne Lavers, Rod Tennyson,
65 Harbour Square – Bob & Celia Rasmussen, Penny & John Smith, Friedel & Klaus Hatje,
John & Susan Le May, Laura Stephenson
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper, Mary & Gary Lake
99 Harbour Square – Ginette Fournier, Margaret Hollingsworth, Lynda Evanson, Harold Swartz
208 Queens Quay West – Eva Sarenland
211 Queens Quay West – Susan Brown, Douglas Simpson, John & Affae Owen
218 Queens Quay West – Ann Mayer
228 Queens Quay West – Carolyn Johnson, Dave & Lynn Secor, Karin Milne
230 Queens Quay West –
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks,
251 Queens Quay West – Angie & Allen Rivers
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Carol McCanse, Cindy McArthur
270 Queens Quay West – Neal Colgrass
280 Queens Quay West –
350 Queens Quay West –
34 Little Norway – Hal Beck

Guests:

Bill Freeman – Guest Speaker
Lenita Lopes – Office of MP Adam Vaughan
Tom Davidson – Assist. to Councillor Pam McConnell
Mario Disipio – 90 Stadium Road – BQNA
Braz Menezes – 2220 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington
Norma Starkie – 2220 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington
Barbara McKenney – 550 Queens Quay West – WNC
Heather Waddell – Harbourfront Centre

1. Adoption of the agenda.

On a motion from Ulla Colgrass, seconded by Allen Rivers, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of Minutes from February 1, 2017 meeting.

On a motion from Carolyn Johnson, seconded by Ulla Colgrass, the minutes were adopted.

3. Chair Laura Cooper invited Barbara McKenney from the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre to speak.

Barbara introduced herself as a Board member for the WNC (formerly Harbourfront Community Centre). The Centre is celebrating its 25th anniversary on June 24, 2017 with a party. She distributed some flyers with details of the event. There will be 300 tickets for sale at \$25 which will get guests a drink and an appetizer. There will be food and a cash bar, music and dancing.

4. Chair Ed Hore invited guest speaker Bill Freeman to address the meeting.

Bill is a long-time Islander. He was formerly a teacher. His book “Democracy Rising: Politics and Participation in Canada” is based on community activism. Bill helped to lead the agreement between the Island community and the Provincial Government. He fought airport expansion with Community Air.

He used to live in Hamilton where his father was a high school teacher. He did a Ph.D. on the politics of unions. For his first job he was hired to work for a welfare rights group of poor people on what were essentially insoluble problems. In Hamilton he knew many steelworkers and admired the trade union movement. He was also in the teachers’ union. The union movement worked to achieve rights, equality and prosperity

Community politics – we need to build a different kind of politics. We have a representative democracy in Canada with elected representatives. We are at a new stage and need to be more participatory and have an impact on government. There is a new crisis in developed democracies, triggered by Brexit and the Donald Trump campaign and election. The pundits were wrong. The public defied the élites, they are fed up with politics being run by élites. The public is struggling and unhappy with the cozy relationship between government, business and élites.

In the past, other movements have rebelled against this kind of thing: women’s suffrage, unions, feminism, civil rights and environmentalism. Environmental leaders have changed public attitudes. Now neighbourhood and residents associations are changing the way the City is planned, with a focus on communities, not cars, for example.

We need to change society to take care of the poor and the homeless. Cities are different from suburbs and small towns. Participation matters and we need to change representative democracy. Small volunteer organizations in Canada have been effective. Income inequality is a problem, a threat to society and the economy. Occupy Wall Street pointed out an issue. How do we mobilize? Fix the tax system and politics. Bill’s book Democracy Rising is optimistic. It will be just another struggle.

Bill opened the floor for discussion among the audience.

Q. In Denmark there is a living wage of \$25 an hour. How about here?

BF. You can have a minimum wage and a tax regime. There is a trial in Ontario for a minimum income, and no more welfare. This would encourage people to work. A trial in Manitoba was successful.

Q. Quebecers have complained about Bombadier with some success. Also university students complained about the tuition increases, and got their parents involved, banging pots and pans.

BF. There is an age cohort with 50% university grads but what jobs can they get?

Q. Students used to want to learn. Now they want to earn high salaries.

BF. My father said if you want money quit school and get a job; if you want a satisfying life and an education go to university.

Q. The age group 27-35 area having a tough time in Toronto.

BF. Yes, they are starting their working life with a huge debt. When I did summer jobs with Bell Telephone I covered my tuition and my father helped with living costs so I had no debt.

Q. There's a vested interest in politicians keeping the status quo and finding scapegoats. We need real leadership.

BF. This is Trump's style, he knows what he is doing. As an organizer the hardest task is making the issue. For example, Community Air made the fixed link to the airport an issue, which David Miller adopted. An example is making poverty the issue.

Q. Large corporations and developers have little effective oversight from government. How can the public be better informed?

BF. With Bombardier the press did a good job. While business is business, if they get public money they need to be accountable.

Q. In the past in emergencies people ran corporations for little money. People should not be in those jobs just for the money.

BF. The individual can be ignored, so you need a group, do the research and understand the issue to counter the argument of the proponents. Stand up for what is right and equal.

Bill then was available to sell and sign his book.

5. Chair Ed Hore introduced Tom Davidson, from Pam McConnell's office.

Tom noted that **King Street** transit priority between Bathurst and Jarvis is being studied. In May there will be a public meeting.

Tom provided a hand-out from Councillor Cressy's office concerning **318 Queens Quay West** park planning for the current parking lot at Rees Street. He noticed that the agenda covered several of his items and invited YQNA speakers to work with him on the topics.

Ulla and Braz discussed some of their earlier ideas for the park, perhaps with financial help from a partial redevelopment with a mid-rise building. They feel the site needs more retail and restaurants, not more dry cleaners and beauty parlours. It certainly needs some kind of building for winter use and washrooms. Carolyn explained the zoning and Official Plan status of the Park designation, which prevents the City from selling the land and also works against any re-zoning.

Ulla mentioned that Joe Cressy called a Visioning Workshop about a year ago with Parks designers and all the main stakeholders on the Waterfront. That was very productive, and led to the Drop-in Presentation on April 1st at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre, where Parks invited input from the larger public.

That's where we are now. The tricky part of developing this site is the fact that we have three parks across the street, and we need something different to animate and connect Queens Quay westward. The most popular suggestions seem to be: a café or small restaurant, playground, wading pool that becomes skating rink in the winter, benches, skateboard facility, space for a

farmers market and other pop-up attractions, public toilets, information booth and keeping everything green, green, green! However, space needs to be reserved for a future shaft to connect with the planned storm-water storage tunnel. We'll keep you posted on the progress here, which is helped by Joe Cressy and his staffers Brent and Sam.

Proposed new Building at 370-380-390 Queens Quay W.

Ulla explained that the proposed high-rise building that would connect the two apartment buildings just west of the Rees parking lot has met with strong opposition. YQNA wrote a formal letter opposing it for a number of reasons, among them the unwieldy design that would block views and sun around it. The two existing slab buildings are of a completely outmoded urban design, which the owner now wants to connect with an even taller slab building. The Community Council opposed the application, which is going before the OMB, with a City lawyer assigned to the case. Councillor Cressy is working with the Queens Quay Committee, Coal Harbour Properties Limited and the City of Toronto to fight the application. We'll keep you posted.

New City Noise By-law in the making.

Ulla is part of a rather large Working Group that meets about once a month with Municipal Licencing and Standards' staff to discuss the content of the new noise bylaw. Wayne Christian is her alternate. Other members are the newly formed Toronto Noise Coalition and neighbourhood associations from around the city with a lot of embedded expertise. Just as the timing seemed right to slip through a new Noise Bylaw that would allow much more unrestricted noise from construction, traffic, amplified music and other sources, a new awareness sprang up, and noise is a topic of discussion. Citizens realize that noise is a health issue and that private enjoyment of our homes is a basic right.

This has elevated the conversation considerably to include research from other cities and what noise bylaws seem to work. The Toronto Board of Health is preparing a report on Noise and Health to weigh in on the future Noise Bylaw, and Working Group members are requesting a presentation by an independent acoustical expert on urban noise.

New Simcoe Ramp from Eastbound Gardiner Expressway

Carolyn noted that the Simcoe Ramp project has started construction. A construction liaison committee has been formed with representation from buildings along the route of the existing York-Bay-Yonge (YBY) ramp, including condos and developers like Menkes and Tridel. Carolyn represents YQNA. The first meeting was held on March 22, 2017 and there will be monthly meetings during the project.

On April 10 the Spadina off-ramp will be altered so that traffic can exit onto Lakeshore where the gates are closed today. On April 17 the YBY ramp will be closed, and Harbour Street will be reduced by one lane. As well, the on-ramp from Rees Street will be closed during the off-peak hours, 9:30 to 3:30 on weekdays to allow for demolition of the old YBY ramp nearby.

Some work has already been completed for the new Simcoe ramp. Its construction will continue once the old ramp is removed beyond Lower Simcoe Street.

Working hours will be 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturday. Overnight work will include trucking of debris from the day's demolition. Overnight work may be permitted if the contract falls behind schedule. Expressway work is exempt from the Noise By-law. The demolition will be noisy and dusty. The work will be similar to how the old bridge at the Gardiner and Jamieson/Dunn Avenue was removed, using jack hammers and concrete saws. Demolition is expected to take three months.

On two separate weekends the north-south roads, Simcoe and York, will be closed to allow for removal of the overhead structures. The contractor will co-ordinate with events like a Blue Jays home game. There will be advance notice for these closings.

Once the ramp comes down, the space where it stood along Harbour Street will be made into more traffic lanes, a bike path and a sidewalk. For the circular ramp, the area will be restored to grass like a blank slate for the park planning. The future of the pillars here has yet to be decided.

Notices have gone up around the area to inform drivers of the changes. Traffic signals in the area will be tweaked to improve traffic flow. The project is due to end in January 2018. For more information, the public can contact simcoe-ramp@toronto.ca or toronto.ca/simcoe-ramp.

Tom continued by noting that with respect to the park planning, funding is in place and a public process will start soon with design consultation..

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Master Plan implementation

Tom said that the funding for Phase 1, which will feature a promenade to WT standards, signage, a gateway feature and a small play structure, has been enhanced with money from Section 42, park levies. This will allow the promenade to extend further south. As well, some lighting will be replaced with the signature Queens Quay poles. After this effort, the main focus will be on funding for the actual terminal.

Question Period

Q. What is being done about all the dogs running loose on Harbour Square Park and making a mess?

TD. There are only two by-law officers on this topic due to funding shortfalls. An off-leash run is being considered for the new park.

Q. What about the replacement ferries?

TD. There is no funding yet for building them, but some parameters have been established including space for 1300 to 1500 passengers and some vehicles. Those would primarily be City maintenance vehicles and approved support vehicles for Islanders' construction projects. A naval architect from Quebec has been hired to do the design. There will be a public meeting about the ferries.

Q. What is the status of the Island Parks Master Plan?

TD. The master plan will cover improvements to the docks, pathways and signage. The Wards dock ices up and needs changes. There will be public meetings.

Q. What is happening about concerts?

TD. For the waterfront parks there are not to be any more fenced-off, ticket-only-access events. On the island, the events are better and are being monitored. The Electric Island is a pilot project.

Q. The Jarvis east-bound off-ramp is going to be even busier, and that is a dangerous intersection with Lakeshore.

TD. Pam is aware of the bad accident record and has asked for monitoring with on-duty police.

Q. There was a Ryerson concert on the island with the speakers turned toward the shore. Speakers at concerts should face the open lake.

TD. That Ryerson event was for Frosh week and will not be repeated.

Q. What is the new building at the airport which seems to be over the fuel storage tanks that have been a possible terrorist target?

Hal Beck. There is going to be a tour of the maintenance and fuel areas at the airport soon so we can find out.

Q. What is wrong with the existing noise by-law? Why are they looking at a new one?

Ulla. The problem is that neither MLS, nor the Police, nor the AGCO want to enforce the noise by-law unless there is a public safety issue.

6. Chair Ed Hore noted that Brent Gillard from Councillor Joe Cressy's office was unable to attend. He has provided an update, which is attached below.

7. Powerhouse Nightclub Liquor Licence Application.

Chair Ed Hore explained that Powerhouse is the new name for the location currently known as Rebel, situated at the Eastern Gap. There have been four days of hearings at the Liquor Appeal Tribunal. All of the YQNA witnesses have been heard, including Ulla, Ken Greenberg and Hines/Tridel. The City has put in Councillors McConnell and Fletcher so far, who spoke about the history of the venue and recent problems with young people. There will be eight more days in June when the Islanders will present their case. The City still has to call its noise expert.

The applicants have not filed much in the way of evidence outlines. They are relying on a section of the Liquor Licence Act, disputed by the objectors, which requires the objectors to go first. The developer is asking for a new licence instead of a change to the existing licence, which includes conditions limiting the number of patrons to 6273, with about 2500 outside and no outdoor concerts. The applicants are now asking for 3500 outside. It is not clear what else they want, so it is hard to mount a case against them.

It is going to be a long process, and the applicants are being deliberately vague. We may not get to final legal argument until the Fall.

Ed then read a newly –delivered letter from MP Adam Vaughan expressing his objections to the application and his support for the community.

Q. Where is our MPP Han Dong on this?

Ed. As you may recall, he appeared here last time when I was talking about this issue. I sent him all the material he wanted but he has not replied.

8. Treasurer's Report – Angie Rivers

Angie stated that the balance now stands at \$1696.02. Donations at the last meeting amounted to \$145.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

The next meeting will tentatively be on Wednesday June 7, 2017

Ward 20 Update by Brent Gillard

New Simcoe Ramp

The existing ramp will be closed for demolition starting Monday, April 17. Sign up for regular updates at www.toronto.ca/simcoe-ramp. The YQNA sends a representative to the Construction Liaison Committee, which had its first meeting this past month.

318 Queens Quay

The first public meeting was held last Saturday to discuss the new park planned for Queens Quay and Rees. We are asking for any additional comments or ideas before May 1. Please visit www.toronto.ca/318queensquay to view the presentation and submit feedback. (Tom has kindly agreed to bring a handout to the meeting with more details.)

Compost Day

You will be able to pick up some free compost for your balcony or windowsill plants at our Waterfront Compost Day coming up in May. The location will be in Little Norway Park at Queens Quay and Bathurst, and when the date is confirmed we will update the YQNA.

If anybody has any questions or comments, please encourage them to email or phone me and I'd be happy to discuss the issue.